

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2023. It should not submit its Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority **must** comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than **30 June 2023**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption. Proper Practices are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2022) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2023).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish, on the authority website/webpage, the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2023**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	✓	
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?	✓	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	✓	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	✓	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 been reconciled to Box 8?	✓	
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (<i>Local Councils only</i>)	N/A	

**Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2022/23 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2023, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2023 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2023** notifying the external auditor.

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2022/23, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Total annual gross income for the authority 2022/23: **£ 6911 - 00**

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2022/23: **£ 5205 - 00**

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority **is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt** and it **must** submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of **£210 +VAT** will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2019
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2021/22), the external auditor **has not**:
 - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2023.

Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer Date
[Signature] 11/04/2023

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date: 11/04/23

Signed by Chairman Date
[Signature] 11/04/2023

as recorded in minute reference:
10. Finance + Accounts
item 10.9 (a) Exemption certificate

Generic email address of Authority
actonturvillepc@aol.com

Telephone number
01454 218675

*Published web address

www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2023. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, that:

	Agreed			'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No		
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓			prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓			made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓			has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓			during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓			considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓			arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓			responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓			disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
			N/A	

*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

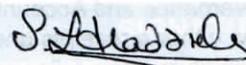
15/05/2023

and recorded as minute reference:

Item 13 Finance

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman



Clerk



Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.

Yes No

www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

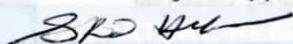
	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	
1. Balances brought forward	12,749	11,163	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	5579	5579	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	370	1,402	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	2,000	2,000	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	5545	3,206	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	11,163	12,938	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).

8. Total value of cash and short term investments	11,163	12,938	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	126,083	126,083	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	NIL	NIL	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval



Date

15/05/2023

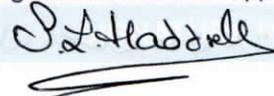
I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

15/05/2023

as recorded in minute reference:

Item 13 Finance

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved



Accounting statements 2022-23

By completing this box, the figures will pull through to the relevant tabs of the workbook to assist you in reporting on the significant variances

	Year ending		Variance £	Variance %	Notes and guidance	Explanation required
	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23				
					Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.	
1. Balances brought forward	12,749.00	11,163.00			Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year	
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	5,579.00	5,579.00	0	0%	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.	No explanation required
3. (+) Total other receipts	370.00	1,402.00	1032	279%	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.	£500 donation £832 Transfer plus £70 interest
4. (-) Staff costs	2,000.00	2,000.00	0	0%	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.	
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	-	-	0	0%	Total expenditure of payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).	No explanation required
6. (-) All other payments	5,545.00	3,206.00	-2339	-42%	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).	Less expenditure this year and no grants
7. (=) Balances carried forward	11,163.00	12,938.00			Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).	Please explain in the Reserves tab
	Bal c/f checker	Bal c/f checker				
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	11,163.00	12,938.00			The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March - to agree with bank reconciliation.	
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	-	-	0	0%	The value of all the property the authority owns - it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.	No explanation required
10. Total borrowings	-	-	0	0%	The outstanding capital balances as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).	No explanation required

Reconciliation between Box 7 and Box 8 in the Accounting Statements - Template

Applies to Accounting Statements prepared on an income and expenditure basis only
Please complete the highlighted boxes.

Name of smaller authority:

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

SOUTH GLOS

There should only be a difference between Box 7 and Box 8 where the Accounting Statements within the AGAR have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis and there have been adjustments for debtors/prepayments and creditors/receipts in advance at the year end. Please provide details of the year end adjustments, showing how the net difference between them is equal to the difference between Boxes 7 and 8.

	£	£
Box 7: Balances carried forward		12,938.25
Deduct: Debtors (enter these as negative numbers)		
1		
2		
3		
Deduct: Payments made in advance (prepayments) (enter these as negative numbers)		
1		
2		
Total deductions		
Add:		
Creditors (must not include community infrastructure levy (CIL) receipts)		
1		
2		
Add:		
Receipts in advance (must not include deferred grants/loans received)		
1		
2		
Total additions		
Box 8: Total cash and short term investments		12,938.25

Bank reconciliation - Template

This reconciliation should include all bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It must agree to Box 8 in the column headed "Year ending 31 March 20XX" in the Accounting Statements of the authority. It must also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Please complete the highlights remembering that un-presented cheques should be entered as negative figures.

Name of smaller authority:

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

SOUTH GLOS

Financial year ending 31 March 20XX

Prepared by (Name and Role):

S RADFORD-HANCOCK - CLERK

Date:

31.3.23

		£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/XX:			
Current account	account 1	6,102.9	
Reserve account	account 2	6,835.4	
	account 3		
	account 4		
[add more accounts if necessary]	account 5		
	account 6		
	account 7		
	account 8		
			12,938.3
Petty cash float (if applicable)			-
Less: any un-presented cheques as at 31/3/XX (enter these as negative numbers)			
	item 1		
	item 2		
	item 3		
	item 4		
[add more lines if necessary]	item 5		
	item 6		
	item 7		
	item 8		
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/XX			
Net balances as at 31/3/23			12,938.3